



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Cochise Regional Partnership Council

Meeting Minutes October 21, 2010

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Cochise Regional Partnership Council was held on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Douglas Public Library, 560 10th Street, Douglas, AZ 85607.

Council Members Present:

Ana Bae, Marge Dailey, Mario Gonzales, David Howe, Jane Strain, Ginger Ryan and Nancy-Jean Welker

Council Members Absent:

Rena Humberg, Melodi Polach, Michael Vetter

Others Present:

Melissa Avant, Pam Patt, Emma Melo, Leann Duncan, Rebecca Cornejo, Nicole Sanchez, Donna Davis

Chair Howe welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Chair Howe to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2010 Regular Meeting, October 08, 2010 Work Session, October 12, 2010 Work Session and October 13, 2010 Work Session. Seeing no objections, the minutes will be posted as published.

Call to the Public

There was no response to Call to the Public

Presentation on Expect More Arizona

Agenda item was moved to follow Review of SFY2010 Close out Final Expenditures and Year End Data.

Review of SFY2010 Close out Final Expenditures and Year End Data

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, Cochise Regional Partnership Council, provided the Regional Council with the fiscal year 2010 Quarter Four Grantee Report. The Regional Council provided input on the format of the document. Ms. Avant also provided the Regional Council with a Data Report for regional and statewide strategies.

Presentation on Expect More Arizona

Donna Davis, Mobilization and Outreach Coordinator, Expect More Arizona, presented to the Cochise Regional an overview of Expect More Arizona. Expect More Arizona is a movement to make education a top priority in the state of Arizona and serves the entire education continuum. Ms. Davis shared statistics and poll results that offered a synopsis on Arizona education. Expect More Arizona also has a media and advertising campaign structured to encourage Arizona citizens to learn and achieve more for the Arizona education system.

Review Status of SFY2011 Strategies

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, provided the Regional Council with a handout to review the status of state fiscal year 2011 strategies for Cochise County. Ms. Avant provided information on grantees, service numbers, allocation, geographic distribution and status on each strategy.

Review of Workgroup Sessions for SFY 2012 Planning

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, discussed the workgroup sessions for Professional Development, Quality and Access, and Family Support that were held over the past month. Within the three workgroup sessions, the following strategies and recommendations were made:

Professional Development Workgroup

- a) Strategy 2, Speech/PT/OT Therapists - Maintain in 2012 and allocate Administrative costs to cover the programmatic fees of the program.
- b) Strategy 4, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships - Maintain in 2012 and revisit the need/capacity in 2013.
- c) Strategy 6, Mental Health Credentials - Maintain in 2012 and revisit the need/capacity in 2013.

The Professional Development workgroup discussed a Mental Health Consultant as a possibility for a new strategy. The workgroup requested the following information at the November 18, 2010 regular meeting:

- 1) Coverage/ratio of mental health professionals to children in Cochise County;
- 2) List of individual background information for participants in the Infant Mental Health training program.

Quality and Access Workgroup

- a) Strategy 3, Quality First - Maintain in 2012 at 31 centers and revisit the need/capacity in 2013.
- b) Strategy 10, Partial Scholarships - Maintain at 100 scholarships for Quality First Centers/Homes in 2012 and revisit the need in 2013. However, since the work group, new information has been provided and partial scholarships will have to cover 75% of the child care cost and Quality First centers will have to have a three star rating to receive a child care scholarship. For 2012 \$600,000 will be needed to maintain 100 scholarships.
- c) Strategy 11, Pre-K Expansion - No funding at this time and revisit the need/capacity/infrastructure in 2013.

In early 2010 (SFY 2011) Cochise Regional Partnership released an RFGA for proposals to help with Pre-K expansion; unfortunately there was no response to the RFGA. The Council then moved the \$100,000 from Pre-K Strategy to Child Care Scholarships for 3-5 year olds. The Regional Council could consider a one-time grant coming from Discretionary dollars and should estimate approximately \$100,000 for a three phase grant to include a potential building. This proposal would expand access to high quality child care in a rural area by providing a planning grant. Funds would be used to support the development of a plan to assess the need and feasibility of providing child care within the community.

Family Support

- a) Strategy 1, Home Visitation - Maintain current funding for 750-1,000 families to receive home visitation services.
- b) New food box strategy - Expand (or start again) a food box strategy that would include a voucher system and utilize the home visitation strategy as a referral source for the voucher system. A voucher system would be in place for SFY 2011 and SFY 2012 to sustain a child for a year on healthy nutritious food.

Announcements

Next regular meeting – November 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Benson, AZ.

Workgroup sessions – Tuesday, October 26, 2010 and Friday, November 12, 2010.

On October 23, 2010 from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. there is a Safety Fair in the Sierra Vista Mall. First Things First will have a booth at the event.

On November 3, 2010 First Things First will present to the Cochise School Board.

Member Welker shared that the power plant in Bowie, AZ is being granted another extension. There will also be a regional economic forum in Bowie on November 12, 2010.

Member Bae discussed the coordination of grantees and how well that process is going.

Member Ryan shared that the Chiricahua Community Health Centers Mobile Unit will be at the Health Fair on Saturday. The 15th St school project is still progressing. A new pediatrician will also be joining Chiricahua.

Member Strain shared that on October 26, 2010 she will be attending a Cochise County school-wide event.

Chair Howe discussed the Chair/Vice Chair meeting that was held on October 14, 2010.

Member Polach submitted her resignation from the Cochise Regional Partnership Council. The Regional Council accepted with regret and understanding.

Member Hoyack shared that there will be a pit fire festival at Cochise College in Douglas, AZ on October 21, 2010.

The State Board Meeting will be held in Sierra Vista at the Windermere Hotel & Conference Center on December 6 and 7, 2010.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Howe adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Dated this 18th day of Nov, 2010.

Submitted By: Cristal Martin
Administrative Assistant

Approved By: 
Chair, David Howe